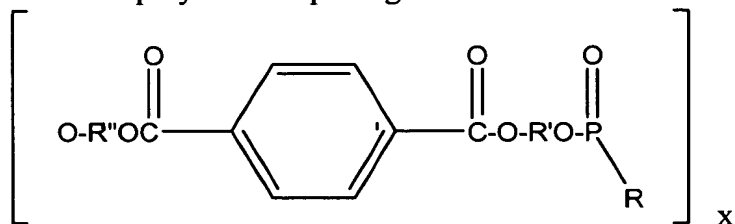


50. (currently amended) The nerve guide conduit of Claim 48 49, wherein the microspheres are made from a polymer comprising the subunit



wherein R' is ethyl or butyl and R and R'' are each a suitable side chain or a cross linking agent.

52. (currently amended) The nerve guide conduit of any one of Claims 48 to 51 50, wherein the average diameter of the microspheres is between 5 and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

53. (currently amended) The nerve guide conduit of Claim 52, wherein the average diameter of the microspheres is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  ~~mm~~.

55. (currently amended) The nerve guide conduit of Claim 48, wherein at least 100mm of protein is loaded per 10  $\mu\text{m}$  ~~mm~~ of conduit.